

By: Representatives Barnett, Wallace, Smith, To: Judiciary B  
Calvert, Williamson, Arnold, Carpenter,  
Roberson, Bain, Massengill, Steverson

HOUSE BILL NO. 634  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-9-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROHIBIT STATE AGENCIES FROM RESTRICTING THE POSSESSION OF  
3 FIREARMS; TO AMEND SECTION 45-9-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
4 PROHIBIT CITIES AND COUNTIES FROM USING A NOTICE OR BAN TO  
5 RESTRICT A LICENSED CONCEALED FIREARM HOLDER FROM ENTERING CERTAIN  
6 LOCATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PROSECUTE  
7 VIOLATIONS OF THIS PROVISION USING STATE CORRUPTION PROVISIONS; TO  
8 AMEND SECTION 45-9-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO  
9 THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 7-5-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
10 OF 1972, TO ADD TO THE LIST OF CORRUPTION CRIMES VIOLATIONS OF  
11 SECTION 45-9-53; TO AMEND SECTION 97-37-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
12 1972, TO AUTHORIZE INVESTIGATIVE AND REGULATORY EMPLOYEES OF THE  
13 SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE TO CARRY WEAPONS; AND FOR RELATED  
14 PURPOSES.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

16 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-9-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
17 amended as follows:

18 45-9-51. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions of Section  
19 45-9-53, no county or municipality may adopt any ordinance or  
20 enter into any contract or rental agreement that restricts the  
21 possession, carrying, transportation, sale, transfer or ownership  
22 of firearms or ammunition or their components.

23 (b) No state agency may adopt a posted written notice,  
24 rule, regulation, order or policy or enter into any contract or



25 rental agreement that restricts the possession, carrying,  
26 transportation, sale, transfer or ownership of firearms or  
27 ammunition or their components.

28 (c) No state agency or their officers or employees may  
29 participate in any program in which individuals are given a thing  
30 of value provided by another individual or other entity in  
31 exchange for surrendering a firearm to the state agency or other  
32 governmental body.

33 (2) No public housing authority operating in this state may  
34 adopt any rule or regulation restricting a lessee or tenant of a  
35 dwelling owned and operated by such public housing authority from  
36 lawfully possessing firearms or ammunition or their components  
37 within individual dwelling units or the transportation of such  
38 firearms or ammunition or their components to and from such  
39 dwelling.

40 (3) (a) A citizen of this state, or a person licensed to  
41 carry a concealed pistol or revolver under Section 45-9-101, or a  
42 person licensed to carry a concealed pistol or revolver with the  
43 endorsement under Section 97-37-7, who is adversely affected by a  
44 posted written notice, rule, regulation, order or policy adopted  
45 or verbally imposed by a state agency in violation of this section  
46 may file suit for declarative and injunctive relief against the  
47 state agency's head or member of the state agency's governing body  
48 in the circuit court which shall have jurisdiction over the state  
49 agency where the violation of this section occurs.



50           (b) If the circuit court finds that a state agency  
51 adopted a posted written notice, rule, regulation, order or policy  
52 in violation of this section, the circuit court shall issue a  
53 permanent injunction against the state agency prohibiting it from  
54 enforcing the posted written notice, rule, regulation, order or  
55 policy. Any state agency head or member of a state agency's  
56 governing body under whose jurisdiction the violation occurred may  
57 be civilly liable in a sum not to exceed One Thousand Dollars  
58 (\$1,000.00), plus all reasonable attorney's fees and costs  
59 incurred by the party bringing the suit. Public funds shall not  
60 be used to defend or reimburse officials who are found by the  
61 court to have violated this section.

62           (c) It shall be an affirmative defense to any claim  
63 brought against a state agency head or member of a state agency's  
64 governing body under this subsection (3) that the state official:

65               (i) Did not vote in the affirmative for the  
66 adopted posted written notice, rule, regulation, order or policy  
67 deemed by the court to be in violation of this section;

68               (ii) Did attempt to take recorded action to  
69 rescind the posted written notice, rule, regulation, order, or  
70 policy deemed by the court to be in violation of this section.

71           (4) This section does not apply to:

72               (a) The authority of a state law enforcement agency  
73 from adopting and enforcing regulations pertaining to the  
74 possession, carrying, transportation, sale, transfer or ownership



75 of firearms or ammunition or their components issued or used by  
76 law enforcement officers in the course of their official duties.

77 (b) The authority of the Commission on Wildlife,  
78 Fisheries and Parks or the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and  
79 Parks from regulating the use of firearms or ammunition as a  
80 method of taking wildlife and regulating the shooting ranges  
81 managed by the commission and department.

82 (c) A state agency listed in Article VIII, Section  
83 213-A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890, provided that such  
84 agency or institution has adopted related rules and regulations  
85 which comply with all applicable state and federal laws.

86 (d) A public community or junior college coordinated  
87 under Section 37-4-3(1), provided the institution has adopted  
88 related rules and regulations which comply with all applicable  
89 state and federal laws.

90 **SECTION 2.** Section 45-9-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
91 amended as follows:

92 45-9-53. (1) This section and Section 45-9-51 do not affect  
93 the authority that a county or municipality may have under another  
94 law:

95 (a) To require citizens or public employees to be armed  
96 for personal or national defense, law enforcement, or another  
97 lawful purpose;

98 (b) To regulate the discharge of firearms within the  
99 limits of the county or municipality. A county or municipality



may not apply a regulation relating to the discharge of firearms or other weapons in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the county or municipality or in an area annexed by the county or municipality after September 1, 1981, if the firearm or other weapon is:

(i) A shotgun, air rifle or air pistol, BB gun or bow and arrow discharged:

1. On a tract of land of ten (10) acres or more and more than one hundred fifty (150) feet from a residence or occupied building located on another property; and

2. In a manner not reasonably expected to cause a projectile to cross the boundary of the tract; or

(ii) A center fire or rimfire rifle or pistol or a muzzle-loading rifle or pistol of any caliber discharged:

1. On a tract of land of fifty (50) acres or more and more than three hundred (300) feet from a residence or occupied building located on another property; and

2. In a manner not reasonably expected to cause a projectile to cross the boundary of the tract;

(c) To regulate the use of property or location of businesses for uses therein pursuant to fire code, zoning ordinances, or land-use regulations, so long as such codes, ordinances and regulations are not used to circumvent the intent of Section 45-9-51 or paragraph (e) of this subsection;



(d) To regulate the use of firearms in cases of insurrection, riots and natural disasters in which the city finds such regulation necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply to the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, carry or use of firearms, ammunition or components of firearms or ammunition;

(e) To regulate the storage or transportation of explosives in order to protect the health and safety of the public, with the exception of black powder which is exempt up to twenty-five (25) pounds per private residence and fifty (50) pounds per retail dealer;

(f) To regulate the carrying of a firearm at: (i) a public park or at a public meeting of a county, municipality or other governmental body; (ii) a political rally, parade or official political meeting; or (iii) a nonfirearm-related school, college or professional athletic event; or

(g) To regulate the receipt of firearms by pawnshops.

(2) The exception provided by subsection (1)(f) of this section does not apply if the firearm was in or carried to and from an area designated for use in a lawful hunting, fishing or other sporting event and the firearm is of the type commonly used in the activity.



(3) This section and Section 45-9-51 do not authorize a county or municipality or their officers or employees to act in contravention of Section 33-7-303.

(4) No county or a municipality including, but not limited to, bureaus and other local government entities, may use \* \* \* any notice provisions \* \* \*, or any other rule, regulation, order, policy or practice to ban, delay, deny or impose additional entry requirements for concealed firearms or otherwise impede or "shadow" a license holder with a concealed firearm \* \* \* on property under their control except:

(a) At a location listed in Section 45-9-101(13) indicating that a license issued under Section 45-9-101 does not authorize the holder to carry a firearm into that location, as long as the \* \* \* notice or policy also indicates that carrying a firearm is unauthorized only for license holders without a training endorsement or that it is a location included in Section 97-37-7(2) where carrying a firearm is unauthorized for all license holders; and

(b) At any location under the control of the county or municipality aside from a location listed in subsection (1)(f) of this section or Section 45-9-101(13) indicating that the possession of a firearm is prohibited on the premises, as long as the \* \* \* notice or policy also indicates that it does not apply to a person properly licensed under Section 45-9-101 or Section



97-37-7(2) to carry a concealed firearm or to a person lawfully carrying a firearm that is not concealed.

(5) (a) A citizen of this state, or a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol or revolver under Section 45-9-101, or a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol or revolver with the endorsement under Section 97-37-7, who is adversely affected by an ordinance \* \* \*, notice or any other rule, regulation, order or policy adopted or verbally imposed by a county or municipality in violation of this section may file suit for declarative and injunctive relief against a county or municipality in the circuit court which shall have jurisdiction over the county or municipality where the violation of this section occurs.

(b) (i) Before instituting suit under this subsection, the party adversely impacted by the ordinance \* \* \*, notice or policy shall notify the Attorney General in writing of the violation and include evidence of the violation. The Attorney General shall, within thirty (30) days, investigate whether the county or municipality \* \* \* violated this section and provide the chief administrative officer of the county or municipality notice of his findings, including, if applicable, a description of the violation \* \* \*, specific language of \* \* \* any ordinance \* \* \*, posted written notice or any other notice found to be in violation. The county or municipality shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of that notice to cure the violation. If the county or municipality fails to cure the violation within that thirty-day





time period, a suit under paragraph (a) of this subsection may proceed. The findings of the Attorney General shall constitute a "Public Record" as defined by the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, Section 25-61-1 et seq.

(ii) The Attorney General is also authorized to pursue criminal charges against any public official or his or her employee who violates the rights of any enhanced license holder under the provisions of 45-9-51, 45-9-53, 45-9-101 or 97-32-7(2) as a case of official corruption under Section 7-5-59 if the officials responsible for the violation fail to correct such violation within thirty (30) days of being notified of the violation.

(c) If the circuit court finds that a county or municipality adopted an ordinance \* \* \*, posted written notice or imposed any rule, regulation, order or policy in violation of this section and failed to cure that violation in accordance with paragraph (b) of this subsection, the circuit court shall issue a permanent injunction against a county or municipality prohibiting it from enforcing the ordinance, rule, regulation, order, policy or posted written notice. Any elected county or municipal official under whose jurisdiction the violation occurred may be civilly liable in a sum not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), plus all reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by the party bringing the suit. Public funds may not be



used to defend or reimburse officials who are found by the court to have violated this section.

(d) It shall be an affirmative defense to any claim brought against an elected county or municipal official under this subsection (5) that the elected official:

(i) Did not vote in the affirmative for the adopted ordinance \* \* \*, posted written notice, rule, regulation, order or policy deemed by the court to be in violation of this section;

(ii) Did attempt to take recorded action to cure the violation as noticed by the Attorney General in paragraph (b) of this subsection; or

(iii) Did attempt to take recorded action to rescind the ordinance, rule, regulation, order or policy or remove the posted written notice deemed by the court to be in violation of this section.

(6) No county or municipality or their officers or employees may participate in any program in which individuals are given a thing of value provided by another individual or other entity in exchange for surrendering a firearm to the county, municipality or other governmental body \* \* \*.

\* \* \*

**SECTION 3.** Section 45-9-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



244 45-9-101. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided, the  
245 Department of Public Safety is authorized to issue licenses to  
246 carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers to persons  
247 qualified as provided in this section. Such licenses shall be  
248 valid throughout the state for a period of five (5) years from the  
249 date of issuance. Any person possessing a valid license issued  
250 pursuant to this section may carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
251 concealed revolver.

252 (b) The licensee must carry the license, together with  
253 valid identification, at all times in which the licensee is  
254 carrying a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver and must display  
255 both the license and proper identification upon demand by a law  
256 enforcement officer. No licensee shall be required to submit to  
257 any further demands unless the officer granting passage has  
258 probable cause that the licensee has or is about to commit a  
259 crime. A violation of the provisions of this paragraph (b) shall  
260 constitute a noncriminal violation with a penalty of Twenty-five  
261 Dollars (\$25.00) and shall be enforceable by summons.

262 (2) The Department of Public Safety shall issue a license if  
263 the applicant:

264 (a) Is a resident of the state. However, this  
265 residency requirement may be waived if the applicant possesses a  
266 valid permit from another state, is active military personnel  
267 stationed in Mississippi, or is a retired law enforcement officer  
268 establishing residency in the state;



(b) (i) Is twenty-one (21) years of age or older; or  
(ii) Is at least eighteen (18) years of age but  
not yet twenty-one (21) years of age and the applicant:  
1. Is a member or veteran of the United  
States Armed Forces, including National Guard or Reserve; and  
2. Holds a valid Mississippi driver's license  
or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety;  
(c) Does not suffer from a physical infirmity which  
prevents the safe handling of a stun gun, pistol or revolver;  
(d) Is not ineligible to possess a firearm by virtue of  
having been convicted of a felony in a court of this state, of any  
other state, or of the United States without having been pardoned  
or without having been expunged for same;  
(e) Does not chronically or habitually abuse controlled  
substances to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.  
It shall be presumed that an applicant chronically and habitually  
uses controlled substances to the extent that his faculties are  
impaired if the applicant has been voluntarily or involuntarily  
committed to a treatment facility for the abuse of a controlled  
substance or been found guilty of a crime under the provisions of  
the Uniform Controlled Substances Law or similar laws of any other  
state or the United States relating to controlled substances  
within a three-year period immediately preceding the date on which  
the application is submitted;



293           (f) Does not chronically and habitually use alcoholic  
294 beverages to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.  
295 It shall be presumed that an applicant chronically and habitually  
296 uses alcoholic beverages to the extent that his normal faculties  
297 are impaired if the applicant has been voluntarily or  
298 involuntarily committed as an alcoholic to a treatment facility or  
299 has been convicted of two (2) or more offenses related to the use  
300 of alcohol under the laws of this state or similar laws of any  
301 other state or the United States within the three-year period  
302 immediately preceding the date on which the application is  
303 submitted;

304           (g) Desires a legal means to carry a stun gun,  
305 concealed pistol or revolver to defend himself;

306           (h) Has not been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or  
307 has waited five (5) years from the date of his restoration to  
308 capacity by court order;

309           (i) Has not been voluntarily or involuntarily committed  
310 to a mental institution or mental health treatment facility unless  
311 he possesses a certificate from a psychiatrist licensed in this  
312 state that he has not suffered from disability for a period of  
313 five (5) years;

314           (j) Has not had adjudication of guilt withheld or  
315 imposition of sentence suspended on any felony unless three (3)  
316 years have elapsed since probation or any other conditions set by  
317 the court have been fulfilled;



318           (k) Is not a fugitive from justice; and  
319           (l) Is not disqualified to possess a weapon based on  
320 federal law.

321           (3) The Department of Public Safety may deny a license if  
322 the applicant has been found guilty of one or more crimes of  
323 violence constituting a misdemeanor unless three (3) years have  
324 elapsed since probation or any other conditions set by the court  
325 have been fulfilled or expunction has occurred prior to the date  
326 on which the application is submitted, or may revoke a license if  
327 the licensee has been found guilty of one or more crimes of  
328 violence within the preceding three (3) years. The department  
329 shall, upon notification by a law enforcement agency or a court  
330 and subsequent written verification, suspend a license or the  
331 processing of an application for a license if the licensee or  
332 applicant is arrested or formally charged with a crime which would  
333 disqualify such person from having a license under this section,  
334 until final disposition of the case. The provisions of subsection  
335 (7) of this section shall apply to any suspension or revocation of  
336 a license pursuant to the provisions of this section.

337           (4) The application shall be completed, under oath, on a  
338 form promulgated by the Department of Public Safety and shall  
339 include only:

340           (a) The name, address, place and date of birth, race,  
341 sex and occupation of the applicant;



(b) The driver's license number or social security number of applicant;

(c) Any previous address of the applicant for the two (2) years preceding the date of the application;

(d) A statement that the applicant is in compliance with criteria contained within subsections (2) and (3) of this section;

(e) A statement that the applicant has been furnished a copy of this section and is knowledgeable of its provisions;

(f) A conspicuous warning that the application is executed under oath and that a knowingly false answer to any question, or the knowing submission of any false document by the applicant, subjects the applicant to criminal prosecution; and

(g) A statement that the applicant desires a legal means to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver to defend himself.

(5) The applicant shall submit only the following to the Department of Public Safety:

(a) A completed application as described in subsection (4) of this section;

(b) A full-face photograph of the applicant taken within the preceding thirty (30) days in which the head, including hair, in a size as determined by the Department of Public Safety, except that an applicant who is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age must submit a photograph in profile of the applicant;



367 (c) A nonrefundable license fee of Eighty Dollars  
368 (\$80.00). Costs for processing the set of fingerprints as  
369 required in paragraph (d) of this subsection shall be borne by the  
370 applicant. Honorably retired law enforcement officers, disabled  
371 veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United  
372 States shall be exempt from the payment of the license fee;

373 (d) A full set of fingerprints of the applicant  
374 administered by the Department of Public Safety; and

375 (e) A waiver authorizing the Department of Public  
376 Safety access to any records concerning commitments of the  
377 applicant to any of the treatment facilities or institutions  
378 referred to in subsection (2) and permitting access to all the  
379 applicant's criminal records.

380 (6) (a) The Department of Public Safety, upon receipt of  
381 the items listed in subsection (5) of this section, shall forward  
382 the full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the appropriate  
383 agencies for state and federal processing.

384 (b) The Department of Public Safety shall forward a  
385 copy of the applicant's application to the sheriff of the  
386 applicant's county of residence and, if applicable, the police  
387 chief of the applicant's municipality of residence. The sheriff  
388 of the applicant's county of residence and, if applicable, the  
389 police chief of the applicant's municipality of residence may, at  
390 his discretion, participate in the process by submitting a  
391 voluntary report to the Department of Public Safety containing any





readily discoverable prior information that he feels may be pertinent to the licensing of any applicant. The reporting shall be made within thirty (30) days after the date he receives the copy of the application. Upon receipt of a response from a sheriff or police chief, such sheriff or police chief shall be reimbursed at a rate set by the department.

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall, within forty-five (45) days after the date of receipt of the items listed in subsection (5) of this section:

(i) Issue the license;

(ii) Deny the application based solely on the ground that the applicant fails to qualify under the criteria listed in subsections (2) and (3) of this section. If the Department of Public Safety denies the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing, stating the ground for denial, and the denial shall be subject to the appeal process set forth in subsection (7); or

(iii) Notify the applicant that the department is unable to make a determination regarding the issuance or denial of a license within the forty-five-day period prescribed by this subsection, and provide an estimate of the amount of time the department will need to make the determination.

(d) In the event a legible set of fingerprints, as determined by the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, cannot be obtained after a minimum of two



(2) attempts, the Department of Public Safety shall determine eligibility based upon a name check by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and a Federal Bureau of Investigation name check conducted by the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol at the request of the Department of Public Safety.

(7) (a) If the Department of Public Safety denies the issuance of a license, or suspends or revokes a license, the party aggrieved may appeal such denial, suspension or revocation to the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his authorized agent, within thirty (30) days after the aggrieved party receives written notice of such denial, suspension or revocation. The Commissioner of Public Safety, or his duly authorized agent, shall rule upon such appeal within thirty (30) days after the appeal is filed and failure to rule within this thirty-day period shall constitute sustaining such denial, suspension or revocation. Such review shall be conducted pursuant to such reasonable rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Public Safety may adopt.

(b) If the revocation, suspension or denial of issuance is sustained by the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his duly authorized agent pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection, the aggrieved party may file within ten (10) days after the rendition of such decision a petition in the circuit or county court of his residence for review of such decision. A hearing for review shall be held and shall proceed before the court without a jury upon the record made at the hearing before the Commissioner of Public



442 Safety or his duly authorized agent. No such party shall be  
443 allowed to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver pursuant  
444 to the provisions of this section while any such appeal is  
445 pending.

446 (8) The Department of Public Safety shall maintain an  
447 automated listing of license holders and such information shall be  
448 available online, upon request, at all times, to all law  
449 enforcement agencies through the Mississippi Crime Information  
450 Center. However, the records of the department relating to  
451 applications for licenses to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or  
452 revolvers and records relating to license holders shall be exempt  
453 from the provisions of the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983,  
454 and shall be released only upon order of a court having proper  
455 jurisdiction over a petition for release of the record or records.

456 (9) Within thirty (30) days after the changing of a  
457 permanent address, or within thirty (30) days after having a  
458 license lost or destroyed, the licensee shall notify the  
459 Department of Public Safety in writing of such change or loss.  
460 Failure to notify the Department of Public Safety pursuant to the  
461 provisions of this subsection shall constitute a noncriminal  
462 violation with a penalty of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) and shall  
463 be enforceable by a summons.

464 (10) In the event that a stun gun, concealed pistol or  
465 revolver license is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the  
466 license was issued shall comply with the provisions of subsection



467 (9) of this section and may obtain a duplicate, or substitute  
468 thereof, upon payment of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) to the  
469 Department of Public Safety, and furnishing a notarized statement  
470 to the department that such license has been lost or destroyed.

471 (11) A license issued under this section shall be revoked if  
472 the licensee becomes ineligible under the criteria set forth in  
473 subsection (2) of this section.

474 (12) (a) No less than ninety (90) days prior to the  
475 expiration date of the license, the Department of Public Safety  
476 shall mail to each licensee a written notice of the expiration and  
477 a renewal form prescribed by the department. The licensee must  
478 renew his license on or before the expiration date by filing with  
479 the department the renewal form, a notarized affidavit stating  
480 that the licensee remains qualified pursuant to the criteria  
481 specified in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and a full  
482 set of fingerprints administered by the Department of Public  
483 Safety or the sheriff of the county of residence of the licensee.  
484 The first renewal may be processed by mail and the subsequent  
485 renewal must be made in person. Thereafter every other renewal  
486 may be processed by mail to assure that the applicant must appear  
487 in person every ten (10) years for the purpose of obtaining a new  
488 photograph.

489 (i) Except as provided in this subsection, a  
490 renewal fee of Forty Dollars (\$40.00) shall also be submitted  
491 along with costs for processing the fingerprints;



(ii) Honorably retired law enforcement officers, disabled veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be exempt from the renewal fee; and

(iii) The renewal fee for a Mississippi resident aged sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall be Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).

(b) The Department of Public Safety shall forward the full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the appropriate agencies for state and federal processing. The license shall be renewed upon receipt of the completed renewal application and appropriate payment of fees.

(c) A licensee who fails to file a renewal application on or before its expiration date must renew his license by paying a late fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). No license shall be renewed six (6) months or more after its expiration date, and such license shall be deemed to be permanently expired. A person whose license has been permanently expired may reapply for licensure; however, an application for licensure and fees pursuant to subsection (5) of this section must be submitted, and a background investigation shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(13) No license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize any person to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver into any place of nuisance as defined in Section 95-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972; any police, sheriff or highway patrol



517 station; any detention facility, prison or jail; any courthouse;  
518 any courtroom, except that nothing in this section shall preclude  
519 a judge from carrying a concealed weapon or determining who will  
520 carry a concealed weapon in his courtroom; any polling place; any  
521 meeting place of the governing body of any governmental entity;  
522 any meeting of the Legislature or a committee thereof; any school,  
523 college or professional athletic event not related to firearms;  
524 any portion of an establishment, licensed to dispense alcoholic  
525 beverages for consumption on the premises, that is primarily  
526 devoted to dispensing alcoholic beverages; any portion of an  
527 establishment in which beer, light spirit product or light wine is  
528 consumed on the premises, that is primarily devoted to such  
529 purpose; any elementary or secondary school facility; any junior  
530 college, community college, college or university facility unless  
531 for the purpose of participating in any authorized  
532 firearms-related activity; inside the passenger terminal of any  
533 airport, except that no person shall be prohibited from carrying  
534 any legal firearm into the terminal if the firearm is encased for  
535 shipment, for purposes of checking such firearm as baggage to be  
536 lawfully transported on any aircraft; any church or other place of  
537 worship, except as provided in Section 45-9-171; or any place  
538 where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law. In  
539 addition to the places enumerated in this subsection, the carrying  
540 of a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver may be disallowed in  
541 any place in the discretion of the person or entity exercising



control over the physical location of such place by the placing of a written notice clearly readable at a distance of not less than ten (10) feet that the "carrying of a pistol or revolver is prohibited \* \* \*" or authorizing a policy with the same effect.

No license issued pursuant to this section shall authorize the participants in a parade or demonstration for which a permit is required to carry a stun gun, concealed pistol or revolver.

(14) A law enforcement officer as defined in Section 45-6-3, chiefs of police, sheriffs and persons licensed as professional bondsmen pursuant to Chapter 39, Title 83, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of this section. The licensing requirements of this section do not apply to the carrying by any person of a stun gun, pistol or revolver, knife, or other deadly weapon that is not concealed as defined in Section 97-37-1.

(15) Any person who knowingly submits a false answer to any question on an application for a license issued pursuant to this section, or who knowingly submits a false document when applying for a license issued pursuant to this section, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in Section 99-19-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(16) All fees collected by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to this section shall be deposited into a special fund hereby created in the State Treasury and shall be used for implementation and administration of this section. After the



close of each fiscal year, the balance in this fund shall be certified to the Legislature and then may be used by the Department of Public Safety as directed by the Legislature.

(17) All funds received by a sheriff or police chief pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be deposited into the general fund of the county or municipality, as appropriate, and shall be budgeted to the sheriff's office or police department as appropriate.

(18) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or allow the registration, documentation or providing of serial numbers with regard to any stun gun or firearm.

(19) Any person holding a valid unrevoked and unexpired license to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers issued in another state shall have such license recognized by this state to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers. The Department of Public Safety is authorized to enter into a reciprocal agreement with another state if that state requires a written agreement in order to recognize licenses to carry stun guns, concealed pistols or revolvers issued by this state.

(20) The provisions of this section shall be under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Safety. The commissioner is authorized to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

(21) For the purposes of this section, the term "stun gun" means a portable device or weapon from which an electric current,





592 impulse, wave or beam may be directed, which current, impulse,  
593 wave or beam is designed to incapacitate temporarily, injure,  
594 momentarily stun, knock out, cause mental disorientation or  
595 paralyze.

596 (22) (a) From and after January 1, 2016, the Commissioner  
597 of Public Safety shall promulgate rules and regulations which  
598 provide that licenses authorized by this section for honorably  
599 retired law enforcement officers and honorably retired  
600 correctional officers from the Mississippi Department of  
601 Corrections shall (i) include the words "retired law enforcement  
602 officer" on the front of the license, and (ii) that the license  
603 itself have a red background to distinguish it from other licenses  
604 issued under this section.

605 (b) An honorably retired law enforcement officer and  
606 honorably retired correctional officer shall provide the following  
607 information to receive the license described in this section: (i)  
608 a letter, with the official letterhead of the agency or department  
609 from which such officer is retiring, which explains that such  
610 officer is honorably retired, and (ii) a letter with the official  
611 letterhead of the agency or department, which explains that such  
612 officer has completed a certified law enforcement training  
613 academy.

614 (23) A disabled veteran who seeks to qualify for an  
615 exemption under this section shall be required to provide a  
616 veterans health services identification card issued by the United



617 States Department of Veterans Affairs indicating a  
618 service-connected disability, which shall be sufficient proof of  
619 such service-connected disability.

620 (24) A license under this section is not required for a  
621 loaded or unloaded pistol or revolver to be carried upon the  
622 person in a sheath, belt holster or shoulder holster or in a  
623 purse, handbag, satchel, other similar bag or briefcase or fully  
624 enclosed case if the person is not engaged in criminal activity  
625 other than a misdemeanor traffic offense, is not otherwise  
626 prohibited from possessing a pistol or revolver under state or  
627 federal law, and is not in a location prohibited under subsection  
628 (13) of this section.

629 **SECTION 4.** Section 7-5-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
630 amended as follows:

631 7-5-59. (1) The following terms shall have the meanings  
632 ascribed to them herein unless the context requires otherwise:

633 (a) "Computer crimes" means those crimes defined in  
634 Chapter 45 of Title 97 and sex offenses involving a computer  
635 affecting children as defined in Chapter 5 of Title 97.

636 (b) "White-collar crime and official corruption"  
637 includes crimes chargeable under the following provisions of law:

638 (i) Paragraphs (b) and (c) of Section 7-5-59(4),  
639 which relates to obstruction of white-collar crime investigations.

640 (ii) Section 97-7-10, which relates to the  
641 defrauding of state and local governments.



642 (iii) Section 97-19-73, which relates to fraud by  
643 mail, wire, radio or television.

644 (iv) Section 97-9-10, which relates to commercial  
645 bribery.

646 (v) Section 97-45-3, which relates to computer  
647 fraud.

648 (vi) Sections 97-11-25 through 97-11-31, which  
649 relate to embezzlement by public officials.

650 (vii) Section 97-11-33, which relates to extortion  
651 by public officials.

652 (viii) Sections 97-19-5 through 97-19-31, which  
653 relate to unlawful procurement or use of credit cards.

654 (ix) Sections 97-23-1 and 97-23-3, which relate to  
655 false, misleading or deceptive advertising.

656 (x) Sections 97-15-3 and 97-15-5, which relate to  
657 bribery of members and employees of the Highway Commission and the  
658 defrauding of the state by Highway Commission members, employees  
659 or highway contractors.

660 (xi) Section 97-9-5, which relates to bribery of  
661 jurors.

662 (xii) Sections 97-11-11, 97-11-13 and 97-11-53,  
663 which relate to acceptance of bribes by public officials and  
664 bribery of public officials.

665 (xiii) Sections 97-13-1 and 97-13-3, which relate  
666 to bribery of electors or election officials.



667                   (xiv) Sections 97-23-19 through 97-23-27, which  
668 relate to embezzlement.

669                   (xv) Section 45-9-53 which relates to corruption  
670 for violating concealed firearm provisions.

671                   (c) "White-collar crime investigations" means an  
672 investigation into any illegal act or acts defined as white-collar  
673 crime.

674                   (d) "Computer crimes investigations" means an  
675 investigation into any illegal act or acts defined as computer  
676 crime.

677                   (e) "Person" means and includes not only an individual,  
678 but also a partnership, corporation, professional firm, nonprofit  
679 organization or other business entity.

680                   (2) The Attorney General is hereby authorized to conduct  
681 official corruption investigations and such other white-collar  
682 crime investigations and computer crime investigations that are of  
683 statewide interest or which are in the protection of public  
684 rights.

685                   (3) (a) In conducting white-collar crime and computer crime  
686 investigations, the Attorney General shall have the authority to  
687 issue and serve subpoenas to any person in control of any  
688 designated documents for the production of such documents,  
689 including, but not limited to, writings, drawings, graphs, charts,  
690 photographs, phono-records, subscriber records and other data  
691 compilations from which information can be obtained, or translated



692 through detection devices into reasonably usable form. Such  
693 subpoenas shall require the named person, his agent or attorney,  
694 to appear and deliver the designated documents to a location in  
695 the county of his residence unless the court for good cause shown  
696 directs that the subpoena be issued for the person to deliver such  
697 documents to a location outside of the county of his residence.  
698 Mere convenience of the Attorney General shall not be considered  
699 good cause. The Attorney General or his designee shall have the  
700 authority to inspect and copy such documents. Such subpoenas  
701 shall be issued only upon the ex parte and in camera application  
702 of the Attorney General to the circuit or chancery court of the  
703 county of residence of the person in control of the documents or  
704 the circuit or chancery court of the county where the person in  
705 control of the documents may be found, and only upon a showing  
706 that the documents sought are relevant to a criminal investigation  
707 under this section or may lead to the discovery of such relevant  
708 evidence. Thereafter said court shall have jurisdiction to  
709 enforce or quash such subpoenas and to enter appropriate orders  
710 thereon, and nothing contained in this section shall affect the  
711 right of a person to assert a claim that the information sought is  
712 privileged by law.

713 (b) A subpoena issued pursuant to this subsection shall  
714 be in substantially the following form:

715 "SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS PURSUANT TO AN  
716 INVESTIGATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



717 TO:

718 YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Attorney  
719 General of the State of Mississippi or his designated staff  
720 attorney at the place, date and time specified below in an  
721 investigation being conducted by the Attorney General pursuant to  
722 Section 7-5-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

723 Place \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time \_\_\_\_\_

724 YOU ARE ALSO COMMANDED to bring with you the following  
725 document(s) or object(s).

726 \_\_\_\_\_

727 You are advised that the \_\_\_\_\_ Court of the \_\_\_\_\_  
728 Judicial District of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Mississippi, has  
729 approved the ex parte and in camera application of the Attorney  
730 General to issue this subpoena, and jurisdiction to enforce and/or  
731 quash the subpoena and to enter appropriate orders thereon is  
732 statutorily vested in the said court; enforcement and penal  
733 provisions applicable to an Attorney General's investigation  
734 include those set forth in Section 7-5-59(4), Mississippi Code of  
735 1972; and disclosure of testimony and/or records coming into  
736 possession of the Attorney General pursuant to this subpoena shall  
737 be limited by and subject to the provisions of Section 7-5-59(6),  
738 Mississippi Code of 1972, (for informational purposes, these cited  
739 statutes are reproduced on the reverse side of this subpoena).

740 You may wish to consult an attorney in regard to this  
741 subpoena. You have certain state and federal constitutional



rights, including your protection against self-incrimination and unreasonable search and seizure which this subpoena may affect.

ISSUED BY AND UNDER SEAL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

(SEAL) \_\_\_\_\_"

(c) Following service of any subpoena, pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, a record of the return shall be made and kept by the Attorney General and subject only to such disclosure as may be authorized pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(4) Enforcement and penal provisions applicable to an investigation under this section shall include the following:

(a) If a person who has been served with a subpoena, which has been issued and served upon him in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall fail to deliver or have delivered the designated documents at the time and place required in the subpoena, on application of the Attorney General the circuit or chancery court having approved the issuance of the subpoena may issue an attachment for such person, returnable immediately, or at such time and place as the court may direct. Bond may be required and fine imposed and proceedings had thereon as in the case of a subpoenaed witness who fails to appear in circuit or chancery court.

(b) Every person who shall knowingly and willfully obstruct, interfere with or impede an investigation under this



767 section by concealing or destroying any documents, papers or other  
768 tangible evidence which are relevant to an investigation under  
769 this section shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction,  
770 shall be punished by a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars  
771 (\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment for not more than five (5) years,  
772 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

773 (c) Every person who shall knowingly and willfully  
774 endeavor, by means of bribery, force or intimidation, to obstruct,  
775 delay or prevent the communication of information to any agent or  
776 employee of the Office of the Attorney General or who injures  
777 another person for the purpose of preventing the communication of  
778 such information or an account of the giving of such information  
779 relevant to an investigation under this section shall be guilty of  
780 a felony and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not  
781 more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment for  
782 not more than five (5) years, or by both such fine and  
783 imprisonment.

784 (d) The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of  
785 this subsection shall not prohibit the enforcement of, or  
786 prosecution under, any other statutes of this state.

787 (5) (a) If any person shall refuse, or is likely to refuse,  
788 on the basis of his privilege against self-incrimination, produce  
789 the designated documents as requested by a subpoena issued under  
790 this section or issued by a court, the Attorney General may  
791 request the court, ex parte and in camera, to issue an order





792 requiring such person to produce the documents information which  
793 he refuses to give or provide on the basis of his privilege  
794 against self-incrimination. The Attorney General may request said  
795 order under this subsection when, in his judgment:

796 (i) The documents sought from such individual may  
797 be necessary to the public interest; and

798 (ii) Such individual has refused or is likely to  
799 refuse to produce the designated document on the basis of his  
800 privilege against self-incrimination.

801 Following such request, an order shall issue in accordance  
802 with this section requiring such person to produce the documents  
803 which he refuses to produce on the basis of his privilege against  
804 self-incrimination.

805 (b) Whenever a witness refuses, on the basis of his  
806 privilege against self-incrimination, to produce documents, and  
807 the court issues to the witness an order under paragraph (a) of  
808 this subsection, the witness may not refuse to comply with the  
809 order on the basis of his privilege against self-incrimination,  
810 but no documents or information compelled under the aforesaid  
811 order, or any information directly or indirectly derived from such  
812 documents may be used against the witness in any criminal  
813 proceeding, except a prosecution for perjury, giving a false  
814 statement, or otherwise failing to comply with the order.

815 (6) Documents in the possession of the Attorney General  
816 gathered pursuant to the provisions of this section and subpoenas



817 issued by him shall be maintained in confidential files with  
818 access limited to prosecutorial and other law enforcement  
819 investigative personnel on a "need-to-know" basis and shall be  
820 exempt from the provisions of the Mississippi Public Records Act  
821 of 1983, except that upon the filing of an indictment or  
822 information, or upon the filing of an action for recovery of  
823 property, funds or fines, such documents shall be subject to such  
824 disclosure as may be required pursuant to the applicable statutes  
825 or court rules governing the trial of any such judicial  
826 proceeding.

827 (7) No person, including the Attorney General, a member of  
828 his staff, prosecuting attorney, law enforcement officer, witness,  
829 court reporter, attorney or other person, shall disclose to an  
830 unauthorized person documents, including subpoenas issued and  
831 served, gathered by the Attorney General pursuant to the  
832 provisions of this section, except that upon the filing of an  
833 indictment or information, or upon the filing of an action for  
834 recovery of property, funds or fines, or in other legal  
835 proceedings, such documents shall be subject to such disclosure as  
836 may be required pursuant to applicable statutes and court rules  
837 governing the trial of any such judicial proceeding. In event of  
838 an unauthorized disclosure of any such documents gathered by the  
839 Attorney General pursuant to the provisions of this section, the  
840 person making any such unauthorized disclosure shall be guilty of  
841 a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a



fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

(8) The powers of the Attorney General under this section shall not diminish the powers of local authorities to investigate or prosecute any type of white-collar crime violation, computer crime violation or any other criminal conduct within their respective jurisdictions, and the provisions of this section shall be in addition to the powers and authority previously granted the Attorney General by common, constitutional, statutory or case law.

(9) No person, agent or employee upon whom a subpoena is served pursuant to this section shall disclose the existence of the investigation to any person unless such disclosure is necessary for compliance with the subpoena. Any person who willfully violates this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be confined in the county jail for a period not to exceed one (1) year or fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

**SECTION 5.** Section 97-37-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-37-7. (1) (a) It shall not be a violation of Section 97-37-1 or any other statute for pistols, firearms or other suitable and appropriate weapons to be carried by duly constituted bank guards, company guards, watchmen, railroad special agents or duly authorized representatives who are not sworn law enforcement



867 officers, agents or employees of a patrol service, guard service,  
868 or a company engaged in the business of transporting money,  
869 securities or other valuables, while actually engaged in the  
870 performance of their duties as such, provided that such persons  
871 have made a written application and paid a nonrefundable permit  
872 fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to the Department of Public  
873 Safety.

874           (b) No permit shall be issued to any person who has  
875 ever been convicted of a felony under the laws of this or any  
876 other state or of the United States. To determine an applicant's  
877 eligibility for a permit, the person shall be fingerprinted. If  
878 no disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the  
879 fingerprints shall be forwarded by the Department of Public Safety  
880 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal  
881 history record check. The department shall charge a fee which  
882 includes the amounts required by the Federal Bureau of  
883 Investigation and the department for the national and state  
884 criminal history record checks and any necessary costs incurred by  
885 the department for the handling and administration of the criminal  
886 history background checks. In the event a legible set of  
887 fingerprints, as determined by the Department of Public Safety and  
888 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, cannot be obtained after a  
889 minimum of three (3) attempts, the Department of Public Safety  
890 shall determine eligibility based upon a name check by the  
891 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol and a Federal Bureau of



892 Investigation name check conducted by the Mississippi Highway  
893 Safety Patrol at the request of the Department of Public Safety.

894 (c) A person may obtain a duplicate of a lost or  
895 destroyed permit upon payment of a Fifteen Dollar (\$15.00)  
896 replacement fee to the Department of Public Safety, if he  
897 furnishes a notarized statement to the department that the permit  
898 has been lost or destroyed.

899 (d) (i) No less than ninety (90) days prior to the  
900 expiration date of a permit, the Department of Public Safety shall  
901 mail to the permit holder written notice of expiration together  
902 with the renewal form prescribed by the department. The permit  
903 holder shall renew the permit on or before the expiration date by  
904 filing with the department the renewal form, a notarized affidavit  
905 stating that the permit holder remains qualified, and the renewal  
906 fee of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00); honorably retired law enforcement  
907 officers shall be exempt from payment of the renewal fee. A  
908 permit holder who fails to file a renewal application on or before  
909 its expiration date shall pay a late fee of Fifteen Dollars  
910 (\$15.00).

911 (ii) Renewal of the permit shall be required every  
912 four (4) years. The permit of a qualified renewal applicant shall  
913 be renewed upon receipt of the completed renewal application and  
914 appropriate payment of fees.

915 (iii) A permit cannot be renewed six (6) months or  
916 more after its expiration date, and such permit shall be deemed to



be permanently expired; the holder may reapply for an original permit as provided in this section.

(2) It shall not be a violation of this or any other statute for pistols, firearms or other suitable and appropriate weapons to be carried by Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks law enforcement officers, railroad special agents who are sworn law enforcement officers, investigators employed by the Attorney General, criminal investigators employed by the district attorneys, all prosecutors, public defenders, investigators or probation officers employed by the Department of Corrections, employees of the State Auditor who are authorized by the State Auditor to perform investigative functions, employees of the Secretary of State who are authorized by the Secretary to perform investigative or regulatory enforcement functions, or any deputy fire marshal or investigator employed by the State Fire Marshal, while engaged in the performance of their duties as such, or by fraud investigators with the Department of Human Services, or by judges of the Mississippi Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, circuit, chancery, county, justice and municipal courts, or by coroners. Before any person shall be authorized under this subsection to carry a weapon, he shall complete a weapons training course approved by the Board of Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training. Before any criminal investigator employed by a district attorney shall be authorized under this section to carry a pistol, firearm or other weapon, he shall have complied with



942 Section 45-6-11 or any training program required for employment as  
943 an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A law  
944 enforcement officer, as defined in Section 45-6-3, shall be  
945 authorized to carry weapons in courthouses in performance of his  
946 official duties. A person licensed under Section 45-9-101 to  
947 carry a concealed pistol, who (a) has voluntarily completed an  
948 instructional course in the safe handling and use of firearms  
949 offered by an instructor certified by a nationally recognized  
950 organization that customarily offers firearms training, or by any  
951 other organization approved by the Department of Public Safety,  
952 (b) is a member or veteran of any active or reserve component  
953 branch of the United States of America Armed Forces having  
954 completed law enforcement or combat training with pistols or other  
955 handguns as recognized by such branch after submitting an  
956 affidavit attesting to have read, understand and agree to comply  
957 with all provisions of the enhanced carry law, or (c) is an  
958 honorably retired law enforcement officer or honorably retired  
959 member or veteran of any active or reserve component branch of the  
960 United States of America Armed Forces having completed law  
961 enforcement or combat training with pistols or other handguns,  
962 after submitting an affidavit attesting to have read, understand  
963 and agree to comply with all provisions of Mississippi enhanced  
964 carry law shall also be authorized to carry weapons in courthouses  
965 except in courtrooms during a judicial proceeding, and any  
966 location listed in subsection (13) of Section 45-9-101, except any



967 place of nuisance as defined in Section 95-3-1, any police,  
968 sheriff or highway patrol station or any detention facility,  
969 prison or jail. For the purposes of this subsection (2),  
970 component branch of the United States Armed Forces includes the  
971 Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or Marine Corps, or the Army  
972 National Guard, the Army National Guard of the United States, the  
973 Air National Guard or the Air National Guard of the United States,  
974 as those terms are defined in Section 101, Title 10, United States  
975 Code, and any other reserve component of the United States Armed  
976 Forces enumerated in Section 10101, Title 10, United States Code.  
977 The department shall promulgate rules and regulations allowing  
978 concealed pistol permit holders to obtain an endorsement on their  
979 permit indicating that they have completed the aforementioned  
980 course and have the authority to carry in these locations. This  
981 section shall in no way interfere with the right of a trial judge  
982 to restrict the carrying of firearms in the courtroom.

983 For purposes of this subsection (2), the following words  
984 shall have the meanings described herein, unless the context  
985 otherwise requires:

986 (i) "Courthouse" means any building in which a  
987 circuit court, chancery court, youth court, municipal court,  
988 justice court or any appellate court is located, or any building  
989 in which a court of law is regularly held.

990 (ii) "Courtroom" means the actual room in which a  
991 judicial proceeding occurs, including any jury room, witness room,





judge's chamber, office housing the judge's staff, or similar room. "Courtroom" shall not mean hallways, courtroom entrances, courthouse grounds, lobbies, corridors, or other areas within a courthouse which are generally open to the public for the transaction of business outside of an active judicial proceeding, the grassed areas, cultivated flower beds, sidewalks, parking lots, or other areas contained within the boundaries of the public land upon which the courthouse is located.

(3) It shall not be a violation of this or any other statute for pistols, firearms or other suitable and appropriate weapons, to be carried by any out-of-state, full-time commissioned law enforcement officer who holds a valid commission card from the appropriate out-of-state law enforcement agency and a photo identification. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply if the state where the out-of-state officer is employed has entered into a reciprocity agreement with the state that allows full-time commissioned law enforcement officers in Mississippi to lawfully carry or possess a weapon in such other states. The Commissioner of Public Safety is authorized to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

**SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2021.

